

Serial No.: 10/528,087

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this Patent Application, particularly in view of the above Amendment and the following remarks.

There is no additional fee for this Amendment because the total number of independent claims does not exceed three and the total number of claims does not exceed twenty.

Amendment to Claims

Claim 1 has been amended by adding the limitations of Claim 3. Claim 3 has been canceled in view of the above Amendment to Claim 1, and Claims 4 and 11 have been amended to depend from amended Claim 1 rather than canceled Claim 3. Claim 9 has been amended by adding the limitations of Claim 10. Claim 12 has been amended by adding the limitations of Claim 13. The above Amendment adds no new matter to this Patent Application.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 9, and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), as being anticipated by Eldon, III, U.S. Patent 4,328,943. This rejection is rendered moot in view of the above Amendment and the following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 3-8, 10, 11, and 13 have been indicated as allowable if rewritten to include all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

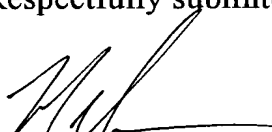
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Claim 1 includes limitations of Claim 3. Claim 9 includes limitations of Claim 10. Claim 12 includes limitations of Claim 13. Each remaining claim ultimately depends upon and further limits an allowable independent claim. Thus, the undersigned believes that all remaining claims are now in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Applicant believes that the above Amendment and remarks address each and every issue raised by the Examiner and overcome each and every objection and rejection. However, should the Examiner detect any remaining issue, Applicant kindly requests the Examiner to contact the undersigned, preferably by telephone, in an effort to expedite examination of this Patent Application.

Respectfully submitted,



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